

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00828 231813Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 /074 W
-----030687 240709Z /14
R 231535Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8501
INFO COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0828

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MARR, IC
SUBJECT: JUNE 21 WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON UPCOMING ICELANDIC
ELECTIONS

EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF SUBJECT ARTICLE ENTITLED, "ICELAND
LEFTISTS, IF SUCCESSFUL IN ELECTION, COULD PROVE THREAT TO
US-MANNED BASE" BY USINFO DATED JUNE 22. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE
TO CALL ATTENTION TO FOLLOWING FACTUAL INACCURACIES IN EVENT
ARTICLE IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER INTEREST IN WASHINGTON:

1. STATEMENT IN ARTICLE THAT MUNICIPAL ELECTION SHOWED ICELANDIC
VOTERS WANTED TO "KICK THE AMERICANS OUT" IS INACCURATE.
AMERICAN PRESENCE AT KEFLAVIK BASE PLAYED NO ROLE WHATSOEVER IN
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. MAIN ISSUES CONCERNED GOVERNMENT'S
HANDLING OF PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, WITH PERSONALITIES
AND LOCAL ISSUES PLAYING AN IMPORTANT SECONDARY ROLE.

2. ARTICLE NOTED THAT AS RESULT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN
REYKJAVIK, INDEPENDENTS WERE FORCED TO LINK UP WITH PEOPLE'S
ALLIANCE. THIS IS ALSO INACCURATE. THE INDEPENDENTS
NOW CONSTITUTE THE OPPOSITION PARTY IN REYKJAVIK CITY
COUNCIL. THE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, AND
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PROGRESSIVES COMBINED TO FORM MAJORITY.

3. ARTICLE STATED THAT, AS EXAMPLE OF GROWING IMPORTANCE
OF KEFLAVIK FACILITY, US HAD RECENTLY INCREASED NUMBER
OF FIGHTER PLANES AT KEFLAVIK FROM 13 TO 23. THIS IS VERY
MISLEADING, IF NOT TOTALLY INACCURATE. THERE WERE
INDEED ABOUT 20 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AT NATO BASE FOR SHORT

PERIOD EARLIER THIS SPRING, BUT THIS WAS BASICALLY RESULT OF BRIEF OVERLAP IN CONVERSION FROM F4-CS TO F4-ES PLUS TEMPORARY DUTY (APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS) ASSIGNMENT OF FOUR F-106S. NUMBER OF ASSIGNED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AT BASE HAS SINCE DROPPED BACK TO 12.

4. ARTICLE STATED THAT ICELANDERS BLAME OVERALL NEGLIGENCE ON PART OF AMERICANS FOR LOW NUMBER OF ICELANDIC CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT BASE. THIS POINT IS INVALID. WHILE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED ICELANDIC PERSONNEL TO FILL EXISTING AVAILABLE SLOTS, A FACT WELL KNOWN TO ICELANDIC OFFICIALS, AGREED TARGETS UNDER 1974 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.

5. ARTICLE NOTED THAT ... "IN ADDITION TO NATO PROBLEM, STATE OF ICELAND'S ECONOMY WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE ELECTION". AS EMBASSY REPORTS HAVE NOTED, STATE OF ICELANDIC ECONOMY IS THE OVERRIDING ELECTION ISSUE AND NATO PROBLEM IS DEFINITELY SECONDARY.

6. FINALLY, IN GIVING BREAKDOWN OF ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT, FIGURES PROVIDED IN ARTICLE ARE INACCURATE. INDEPENDENTS HOLD 25 (NOT 24) OF THE 60 SEATS; PROGRESSIVES HOLD 17 (NOT 18); PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE HAS 11 (NOT 12), AND THE OTHER TWO "LEFTIST PARTIES," WHICH MUST MEAN SOCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS, HAVE A TOTAL OF 7 (NOT 6) SEATS.
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0672
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780625/aaaaavrm.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b76a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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